

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

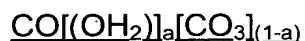
Claims 1-15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing an agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide, comprising reacting, in suspension,

(i) agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate agglomerates, ~~in suspension,~~  
with

(ii) at least one component selected from the group consisting of  
aqueous alkaline liquors, ammonia and mixtures thereof,

wherein the agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate is formed by agglomerating fine  
primary particles represented by the following formula,



in which  $0.1 \leq a \leq 0.9$ , and

the agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate has a spheroidal secondary structure  
and an average agglomerate diameter of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$

further wherein said agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide has a spheroidal  
secondary structure that is substantially the same as the secondary  
spheroidal structure of said agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate, and has an  
average agglomerate diameter of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 16, wherein the  
~~spheroidal agglomerates have an~~ the average agglomerate diameter of said  
agglomerated cobalt(II) carbonate is 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the average  
agglomerate diameter of said agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide is 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 16, wherein the cobalt(II) hydroxide has a tap density of  $\geq 1\text{g/cm}^3$ .

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 16, further comprising calcinating the agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide thereby forming pure-phase cobalt(II) oxide.

Claims 22 - 29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 16 wherein said component is ammonia.

Claim 31. (New) A process for preparing an agglomerated cobalt(II) hydroxide, comprising reacting cobalt(II) carbonate agglomerates, in suspension, with ammonia.